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Morale, Welfare, Recreation, and Services

YOUTH PROGRAMS

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OPR: HQ USAF/MWP
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1. The Air Force family merits specific support in the form of youth programs to enable military and civilian personnel to meet their official responsibilities without concern for the well-being of their children. This directive establishes policies for youth programs to meet the special needs of the military family and encourage youth development and achievement by employing qualified and trained personnel and encouraging parental participation.
2. Program staffs will consist of adults who are qualified and trained to protect youth and provide them with activities that contribute to their growth and development. Parents will be encouraged to be involved with their children's activities, and volunteer assistance will be sought. Appropriated and nonappropriated funds will be used to offer a comprehensive schedule of activities at affordable fees. The use of Morale, Welfare, Recreation, and Services (MWRS) activities by youth will be limited by the installation commander, according to AFI 34-801, *Youth Programs* (formerly AFR 215-23), to ensure that it does not conflict with mission requirements and the need to support active duty personnel.
3. Air Force youth programs will provide opportunities for children to develop their physical, social, emotional, and cognitive abilities including opportunities for achievement, leadership, and recognition. These opportunities may include before and after school programs, and summer and holiday day camps during school vacations; these activities will also strive to assist parents with the supervision of their children while they are working.
4. Special youth program emphasis will be placed on minimizing risk of harm to youth resulting from illness, injury, neglect, and child abuse.
5. Youth programs will be based on the needs and interests of all members of the youth community regardless of gender, abilities, or financial resources. In addition, children will be assisted in dealing with the unique demands of the military family, including mobility, separation, and the realities of war.
6. This directive establishes the following responsibilities and authorities:

6.1. The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower, Reserve Affairs, Installations and Environment (SAF/MI) is responsible for youth programs policy matters as described in Air Force Policy Directive 90-1, *Strategic Planning and Policy Formulation*, paragraph 1.5.2. SAF/MI approval is required before this document is changed, reissued, or rescinded.

6.2. The Directorate of MWRS (HQ USAF/MW) will establish policy and instructions, advocate resources, and provide oversight of the Youth Program throughout the Air Force. The Air Force Morale, Welfare, Recreation, and Services Agency (AFMWRSA) will publish technical guidance and conduct training to ensure compliance with this policy.

6.3. Commanders will establish and conduct a youth program which responds to the needs of the community, supports military members and Department of Defense (DoD) civilians in their roles as parents, and complies with this policy and AFI 34-801.

7. Terms Explained:

7.1. Youths are dependents of military members and DoD civilians who are 6 through 18 years of age; it does not include individuals who are on active duty or who have graduated from high school or the equivalent.

7.2. Before and After School Programs are programs offered before and after school hours, on school holidays, and during summer months to provide supervision and activities for children 6 through 14 years of age while their parents are on duty or are employed outside the home.

7.3. Summer and Holiday Day Camps are part-day or full-day programs designed to provide children with a variety of recreational and educational activities for fun and relaxation and to develop their abilities.

8. This policy applies to all activities which provide youth activities on Air Force installations with the exception of activities conducted by private organizations, educational institutions, or religious organizations.

9. This policy directive implements the Crime Control Act of 1990; the Department of Defense Youth Action Plan, June 22, 1990; the Military Family Act of 1986, Section 807, Youth Sponsorship; and the Military Child Care Act of 1989.

10. This policy interfaces with AFI 34-801; AFI 34-802, *Before and After School Programs* (formerly AFR 215-23); and AFI 34-803, *Summer and Holiday Youth Camps* (formerly AFR 215-23).

11. See **Attachment 1** for measures used to comply with this policy.

12. Form Prescribed. AF Form 92, **Annual Youth Activities Report**.

NORMAND G. LEZY, Brig General, USAF
Director of Morale, Welfare, Recreation and Services

Attachment 1

MEASURING COMPLIANCE WITH POLICY

A1.1. Compliance with the Youth Program policy will be assessed by reviewing information provided by the installation annually on AF Form 92, **Annual Youth Programs Report**. Data from this report is compiled and reported to DoD annually. AFI 34-801 contains instructions on preparing the report.

A1.2. Meeting the Need for Before and After School Programs. Compliance with the policy to provide before and after school, and summer and holiday day camp programs for children of employed parents will be determined by comparing the number of spaces available for this service as reported on the AF Form 92 with the demand for this service. Compliance will be assessed at the installation, command, and Air Force level (**Figure A1.1.**).

A1.3. Protecting Youth From Child Abuse. Compliance with this policy will be assessed by tracking the number of substantiated child abuse and neglect cases in out-of-home youth programs Air Force-wide reported to DoD as required by DoD Instruction 6400.2, *Child and Spouse Abuse Report*, July 10, 1987. Compliance will be assessed at the installation, command, and Air Force level (**Figure A1.2.**).

A1.4. Youth Transition Programs. Compliance with the law requiring a Youth Relocation Program will be assessed by determining the percent of installations currently offering such a program as reported on the AF Form 92. Compliance will be assessed at the installation, command, and Air Force level (**Figure A1.3.**).

A1.5. Parent Participation. Compliance with the policy that parents be encouraged to be actively involved in planning and implementing youth programs will be assessed by tracking the percentage of parents with children who participate or volunteer in the program at each installation, by command, and Air Force-wide as reported on the AF Form 92. Compliance will be assessed at the installation, command, and Air Force level (**Figure A1.4.**).

Figure A1.1. Sample Metric of Meeting Need for Before & After School Programs.

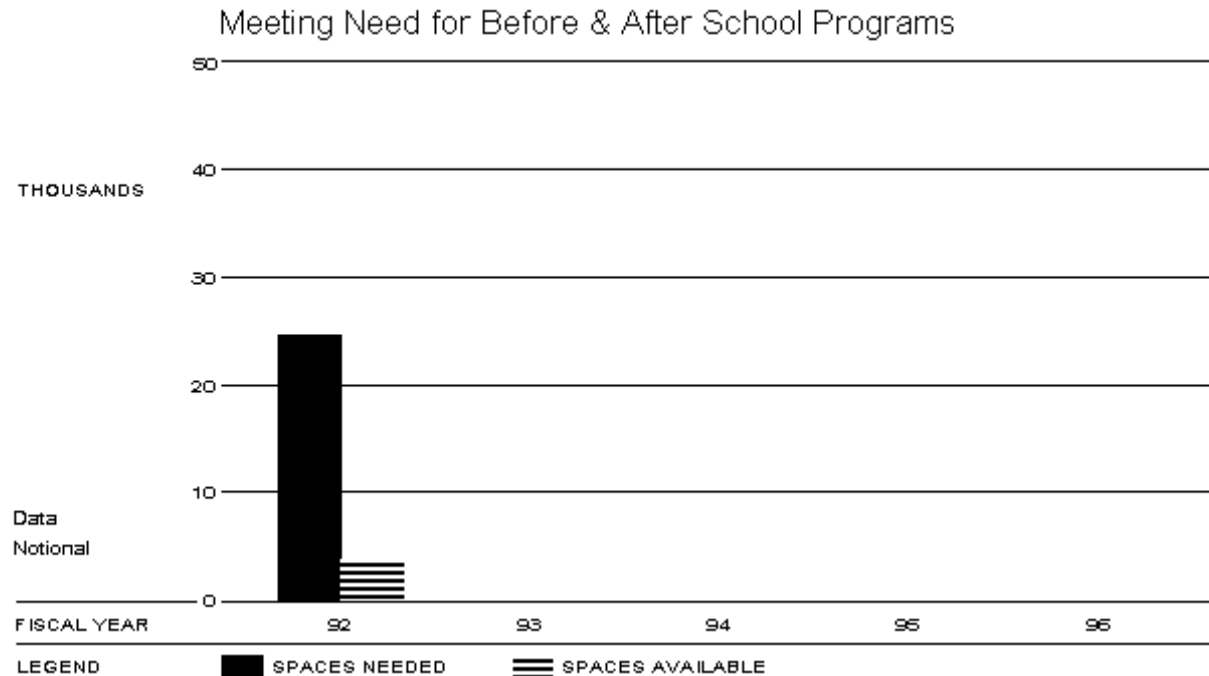


Figure A1.2. Sample Metric of Child Abuse Cases in Youth Programs.

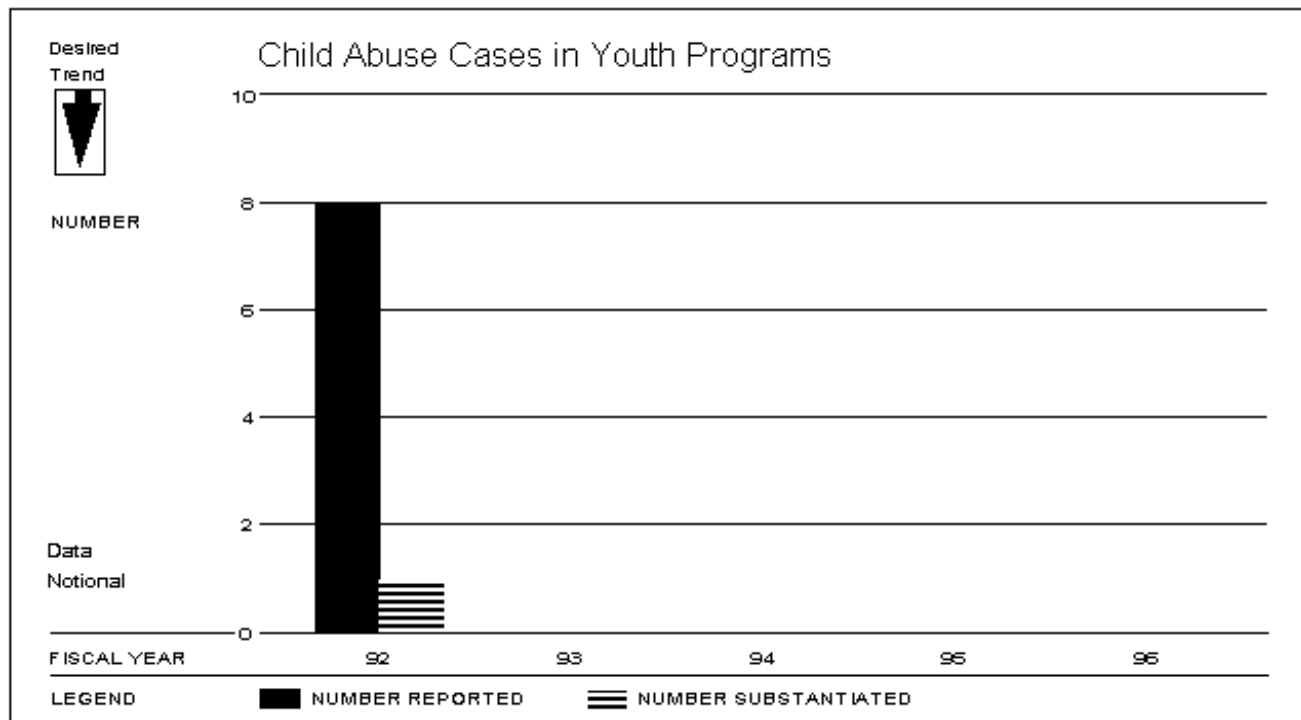


Figure A1.3. Sample Metric of Installations With Youth Transition Programs.

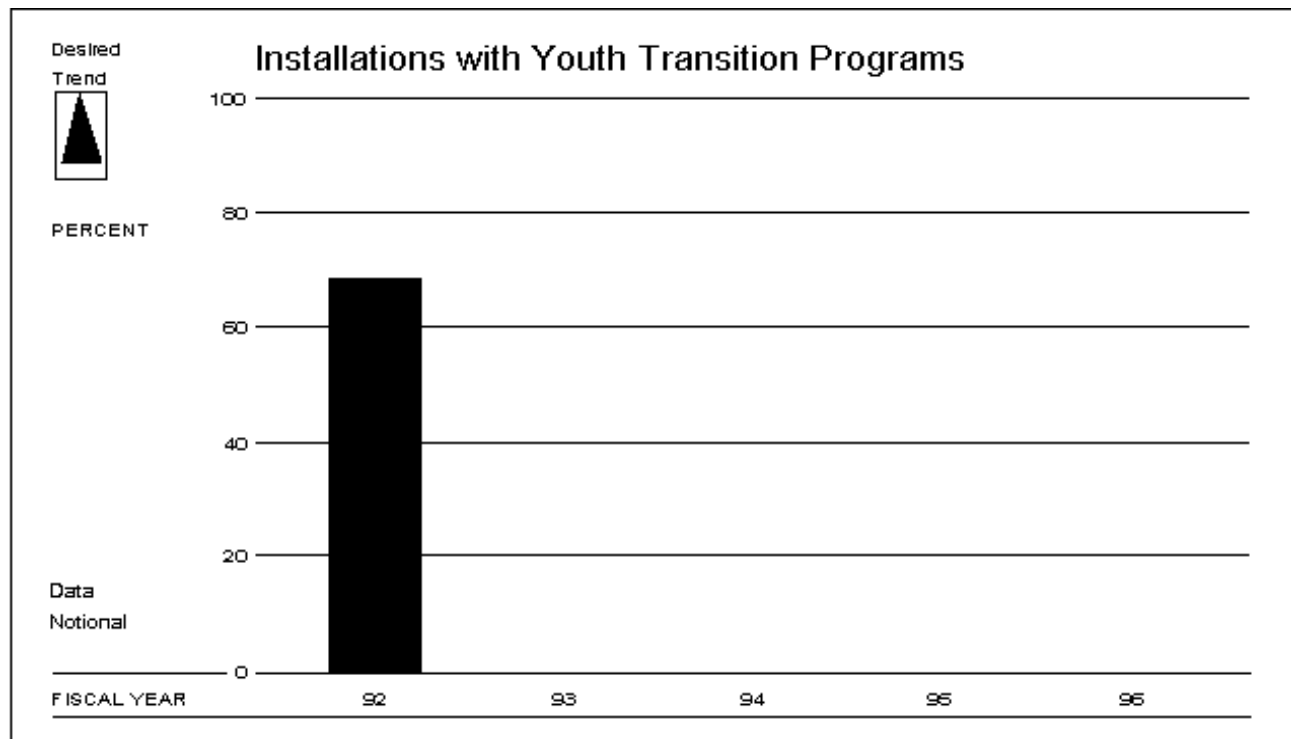


Figure A1.4. Sample Metric of Parent Participation in Youth Programs.

